

No Wedding Garment – Matthew 22:11-14

Matthew 22:11-14 [New King James] *“But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”*

To understand this statement we need to realise that clothing is seen symbolically as character and function.

Psalms 132:16 [New King James] *“I will also clothe her priests with salvation, and her saints shall shout aloud for joy.”*

The clothing of the priest represented their function to dispense salvation in their role of priestly officiants in the sacrifices, [Isaiah 61:10].

Psalms 132:9 [New King James] *“Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let Your saints shout for joy.”*

Their clothing represents the righteous character of the priests, [Isaiah 11:5; Ephesians 6:14].

It was customary for wedding guests to be given garments to wear to a banquet.

It would be unthinkable for a guest not to wear that garment, the host could only assume that the guest was arrogant and thought they did not need these garments or they did not want to take part in the wedding celebrations.

The wedding clothes picture the righteousness needed to enter the Kingdom of God, the total acceptance in God the Father’s eyes that faith in His Son Jesus Christ was complete in the person’s eyes.

Jesus Christ is the One who provides this garment of righteousness for every believer.

Romans 4:13, 16, 18-24 [New King James] *“For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.” ... “Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all” ... “who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore ‘it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead,”*

This is true “imputed righteousness” that is in total contrast to our own, [Isaiah 64:6].

Philippians 2:12-13 [New King James] *“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”*

We have to use this “imputed righteousness” to “work out” our own salvation.

This can be compared to weaving a righteous garment that we can then wear at the marriage supper of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, Who has returned to the earth, this time as King of kings and Lord of lords, [Revelation 17:14; Revelation 19:11-16].

Revelation 19:7-9 [New King James] “*Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.’ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, ‘Write: “Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!”’ And he said to me, ‘These are the true sayings of God.’”*

Notice that the wedding garment of the bride of Jesus Christ, the saints, that is all true Christians, is the result of a Christian using the imputed righteousness they have received, in acts of love and compassion for other human beings.

The importance of our preparing our wedding garment does **not** finish with the wedding celebration of Jesus Christ and all true Christians, it is a preparation for our work of reconciliation that is ours after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 20:6 [New King James] “*Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”*

Both true Christians who have “*died in Christ*” and those still alive at His Second Coming will be priests of God, wearing the wedding garments and a body that is now incorruptible.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 [New King James] “*But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”*

This is just prior to the wedding supper of the Lamb and the saints.

1 Corinthians 15:50-58 [New King James] “*Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?’ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”*

This is why it is so important, for all true Christians are preparing to be part of this first resurrection.

We are to use the active indwelling Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus Christ, [Romans 8:9] the very righteousness of the One Eternal God, to develop the very character of the Triune God.

First –

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

This is a complete sacrifice, the Greek word translated “*bodies*” is “*soma*” meaning whole life, physical body, mind and intellect.

This will allow the Holy Spirit to start His re-education of our mind and thoughts, [Romans 12:2].

Next –

If we then follow in the steps of the Holy Spirit we will gradually take on the very character of the Eternal God, the “*fruits*” of our walk with the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-25 [New King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*

We will then have ready the “*wedding garment of Godly righteousness*” to wear at the wedding feast of the Lamb of God and all true Christians who have sacrificed their lives to serve and worship Him.

The choice is yours.